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**The Interaction of Group 15 And 16 Donor
Ligands with the Later Transition Metals**

A Collection of Published Papers Presented in Application for the
Degree of Doctor of Science at Massey University

Andrew M. Brodie BSc(Hons) PhD FNZIC CChem FRSC

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Other collaborators have brought their knowledge and skills to the publications and they are listed as co-authors. It should be noted that many of these researchers were outstanding graduate students gaining training in research as part of their BSc(Hons), MSc or PhD degree programmes. The input of these people has added a richness to our research and they are gratefully thanked. Special mention must be made of the X-ray crystallographers, Dr Kevin Brown, Professor Ted Baker, Dr Graeme Gainsford, Associate Professor Joyce Waters and, most recently, Professor Tony Burrell, who determined the structures described in the papers. X-ray crystallography has certainly developed tremendously over the last 30 years and it is inconceivable that the modern synthetic inorganic chemist could be without access to this vital technique.

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INTRODUCTION

The scientific publications contained in this thesis* are the results of approximately 30 years of transition metal chemistry research, mainly pursued at Massey University. The emphasis has been on the synthesis of interesting new compounds and their subsequent characterisation using a variety of physicochemical techniques. Where appropriate reactivity studies have also been carried out on the new compounds.

Chapter 1 contains papers concerned with ligands containing the Group 16 donor, sulfur, although there are a few selenium donors included. The particular ligands studied are tertiary phosphine and arsine chalcogenides, thioamides, thioureas, thiolates and thioethers with copper and the carbonyls of Group 6 and osmium.

In Chapter 2, papers detailing research into the metal binding properties of the human milk protein, lactoferrin and related small molecule systems containing phenolate donors are grouped together. A number of relevant copper thiolate systems are included in this chapter as well, which link to the paper on the blue copper protein, azurin. Finally, in this chapter, are papers describing the preparation and characterisation of a number of complexes related to the antitumour copper(II) 2-formylpyridine thiosemicarbazone system.

The theme for Chapter 3 is Group 15 donor ligand complexes, in particular those of nitrogen and phosphorus. The discovery that *N*-phenylthiourea could be desulfurized in a reaction with copper(II) led to the investigation of phenylcyanamides as ligands. A number of tertiary phosphine ligands have been examined, including the bulky tribenzylphosphine, and research in this area is continuing.

Papers with an organometallic theme form the contents of Chapter 4.

* Papers accepted for publication are not included but are listed in each chapter for completeness.

CHAPTER 1

SULFUR DONOR LIGAND COMPOUNDS

CHAPTER 1

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CHAPTER 3

NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS DONOR LIGAND COMPOUNDS

CHAPTER 3

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CHAPTER 4

MISCELLANEOUS ORGANOMETALLIC COMPOUNDS

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